TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES®

THE FIRST BATTLE

RETRO

READING

TIME

RetroReadingTime.com

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES®

THE FIRST BATTLE

By Crystal D. Herman

Illustrated by Larry Daste

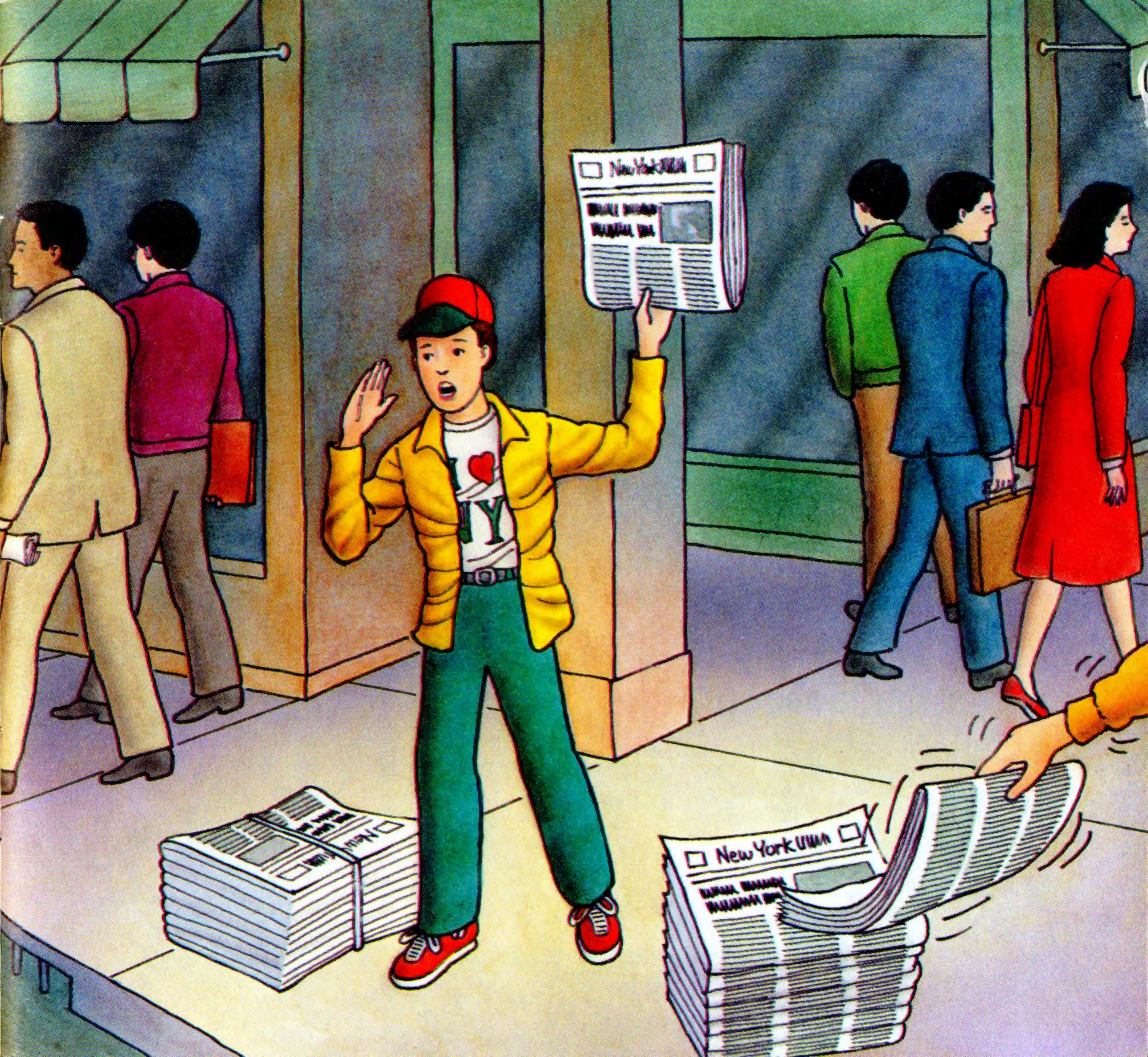
Based on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles characters
and comic book created by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird

Random House New York

Copyright © 1990 Mirage Studios. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES is a registered trademark of Mirage Studios U.S.A. LEONARDO™, MICHAELANGELO™ RAPHAEL™ DONATELLO™, SPLINTER™, SHREDDER™, and APRIL O'NEIL™ are trademarks of Mirage Studios U.S.A. Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto. Based on an episode from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles–The Movie. Story by Bobby Herbeck. Screenplay written by Bobby Herbeck and Todd W. Langen. Motion Picture © 1990 by Northshore Investments Limited. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 89-63494 ISBN: 0-679-80668-7
Manufactured in the United States of America 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

"Extra! Extra!" a newsboy shouted "Read all about it! Giant crime wave hits New York City!"

People hurried down the steamy city street, eager to get home No one noticed a hand reaching reaching grabbing a newspaper without paying for it then disappearing into the crowd


New York
New York

That night April O'Neil had the same news to report on television.

"This is more than just a series of small crimes," the ace reporter said on her late-night broadcast. "There is a major force at work–a criminal organization that steals cars, burgles homes, and shoplifts.. Everyone should be on the lookout!"

NEWS
6
News6

As the news show ended, April turned from the camera and sighed There was still plenty of work to do

The reporter bent over the papers on her desk. Hours went by, and when she looked up again she was alone Quickly gathering her things, April waved good-bye to the security guard and headed for her car across an empty parking lot.

CHANNEL

SIX

Thud, thud April's footsteps echoed through the silent, deserted lot. She passed by an area where remote-control vans were parked and stopped short.

A group of young thugs were quietly stealing TVs from the news vans and just a second after April spotted the crooks, they spotted her, too!

NEL

"Bad timing," said one thug as he drew a knife

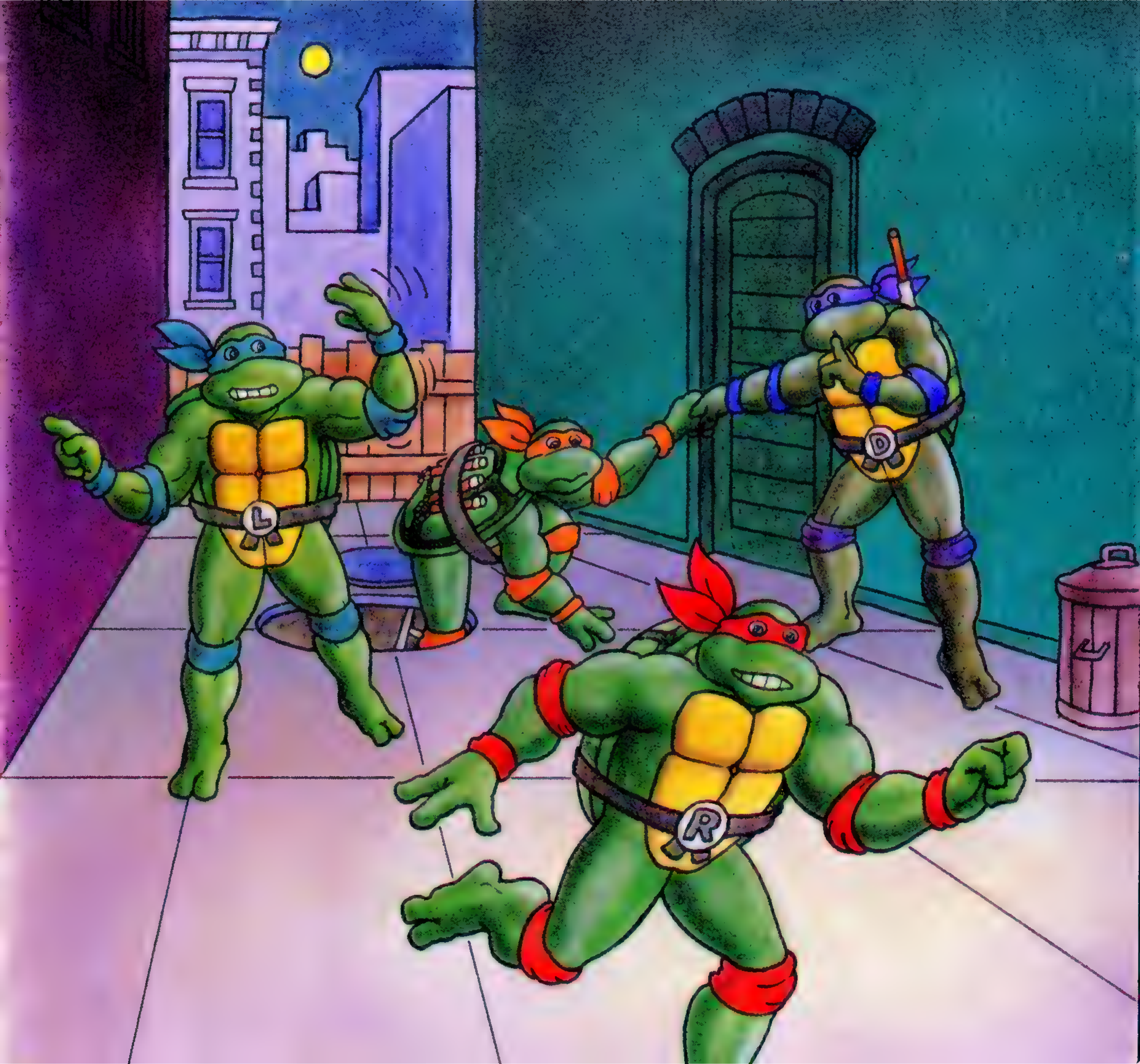
"You're telling me," April answered nervously She turned and tried to run in the opposite direction, but the crooks were too quick for her–and too strong.

"Help!" April screamed "Help!"

And then her mouth was taped shut and she couldn't say anything more

Not far away a manhole cover slowly rose from the ground.

"What was that scream?" a voice whispered Four figures lifted themselves out from the sewer They were the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Donatello, Raphael, Michaelangelo, and Leonardo–and they knew someone was in trouble

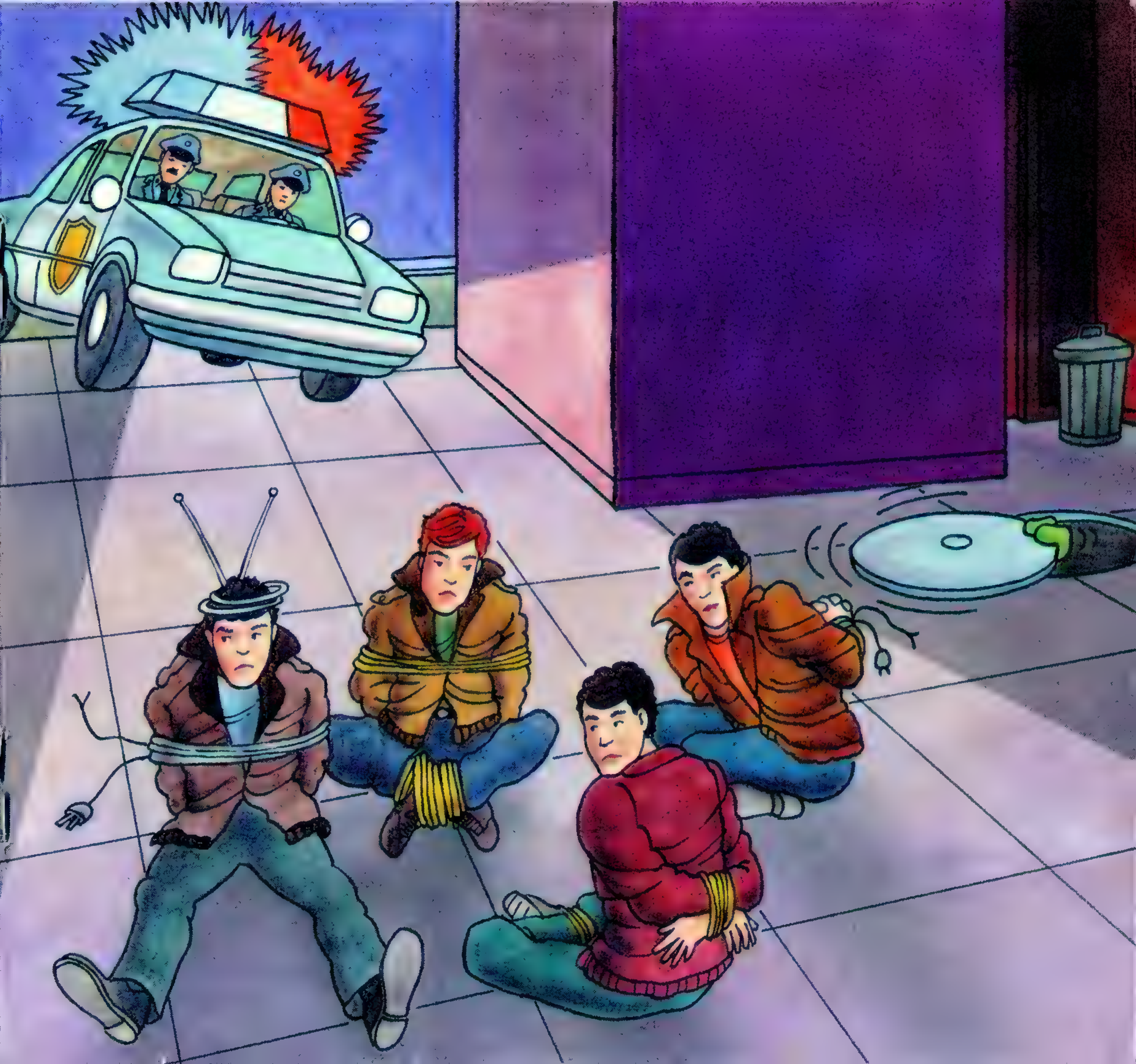


Whish! A ninja dagger whistled through the air, shattering the streetlight above the vans The lot was left in almost total darkness, but April could see four shadowy figures quietly moving in the distance Suddenly they sprang into action. Fighting with incredible speed and power, they surprised the crooks one by one

April strained to hear the voices of her rescuers. But all she heard was police sirens coming closer

In minutes two police cars screeched into the parking lot, lighting up the area with their headlights

April blinked All the crooks were now seated in a group, tightly tied together with TV cables. Her rescuers–whoever they had been–were nowhere to be seen. Who had saved her?



The Turtles stood nearby, unseen by April and the police

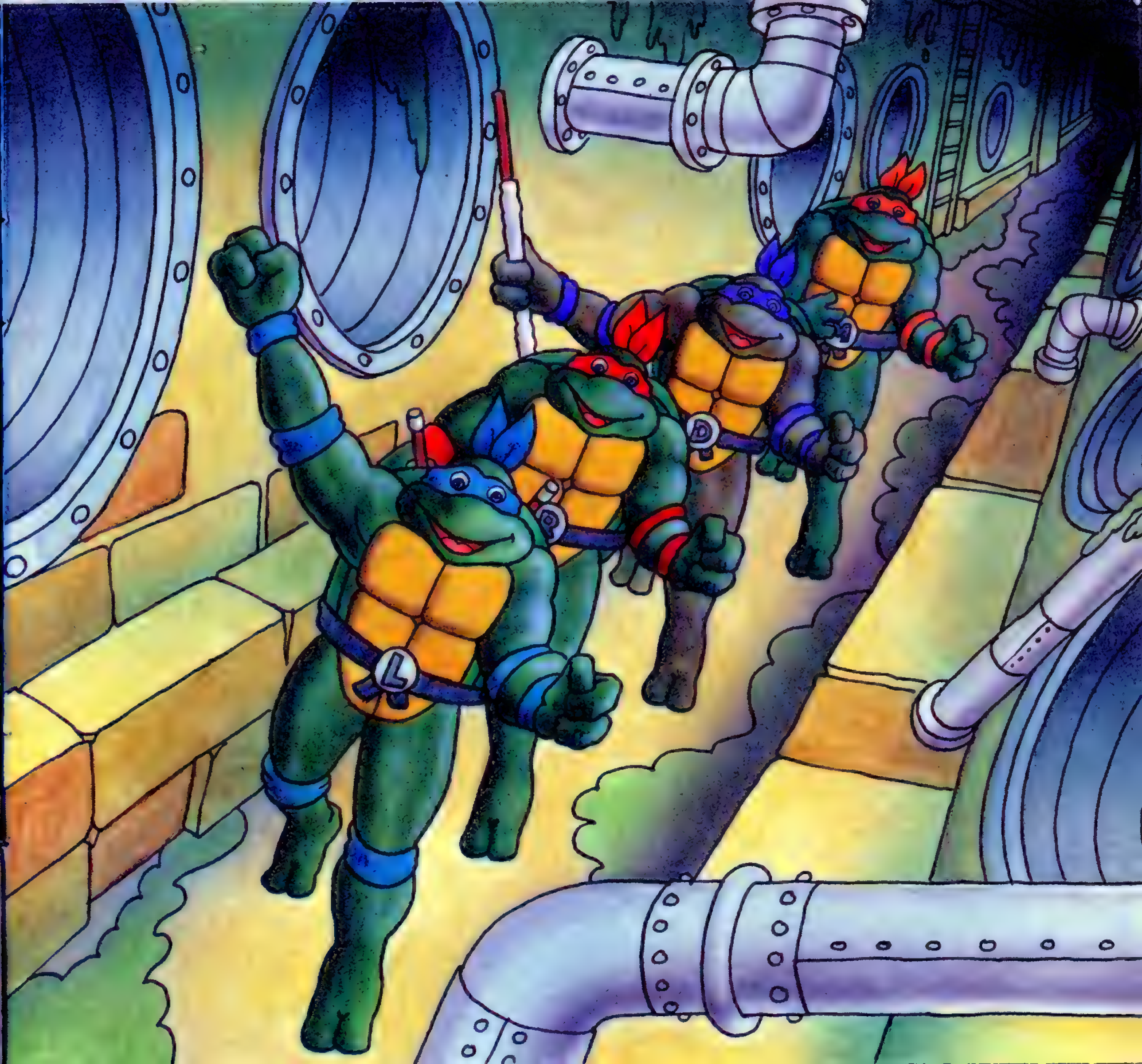
"She's safe now," Raphael said quietly, watching as a police officer helped April to her feet. "It's time to leave."

The Turtles turned and disappeared into the sewer they had come out of, silently pulling the manhole cover back into place after them

Far below in the deep, dark sewer the Turtles headed for home Leonardo led the way through the long, winding passages

"We were *awesome*, bros!" he shouted, punching the air with his fist.

"Let's hurry up," Michaelangelo said, patting his stomach. "I'm starving!"



Before long the Turtles reached the entrance to their den. A converted storage chamber filled with old furniture, the Turtles' home was warm and inviting. A TV sat in one corner of the room, and on a faded chair in the opposite corner sat the ninja master Splinter–the Turtles' teacher and friend.

STOP
EXIT

Excited over the success of their first ninja mission, Leonardo knelt before Splinter.

"We have had our first battle, Master Splinter," he said. "There were many, but we fought well.

"And now that we've had our first victory," he continued, "let's put an end to all crime in the city We can use our ninja skills to bring peace back to the streets "

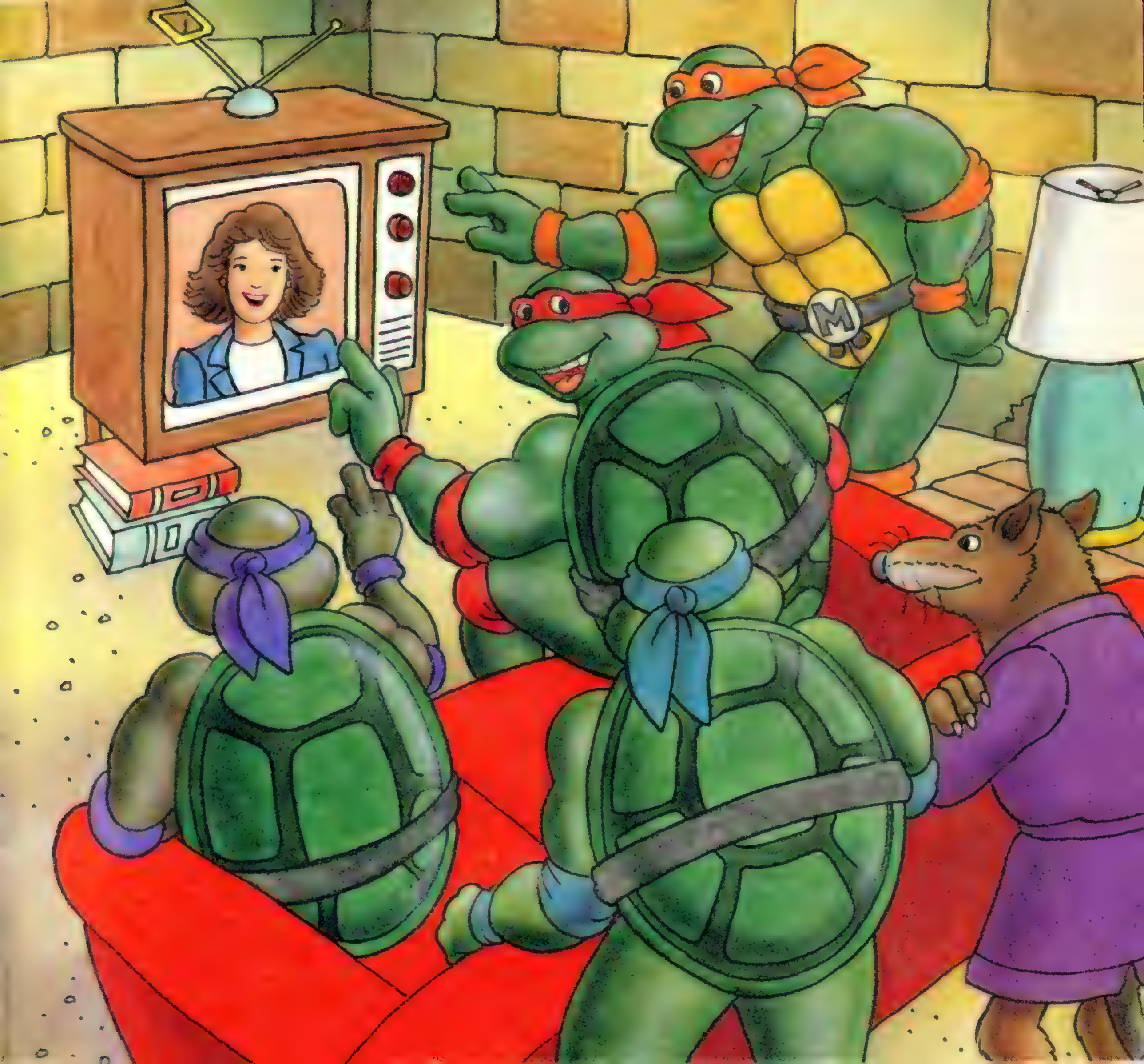
The aging rat master rose to his feet. His soft, steady voice told of the wisdom of his years.

"You have done well, my sons," Splinter said, motioning for the Turtles to gather around him. "But remember to be careful. You must never be noticed If you are to do any good in this world, you must learn to strike hard and fade away"

Suddenly all eyes turned to the television as a special news bulletin flashed across the screen. The reporter was April O'Neil.

"It seems a secret force of do-gooders have decided to clean up New York City streets themselves," she began. "Who are these mysterious heroes? And where do they come from?"

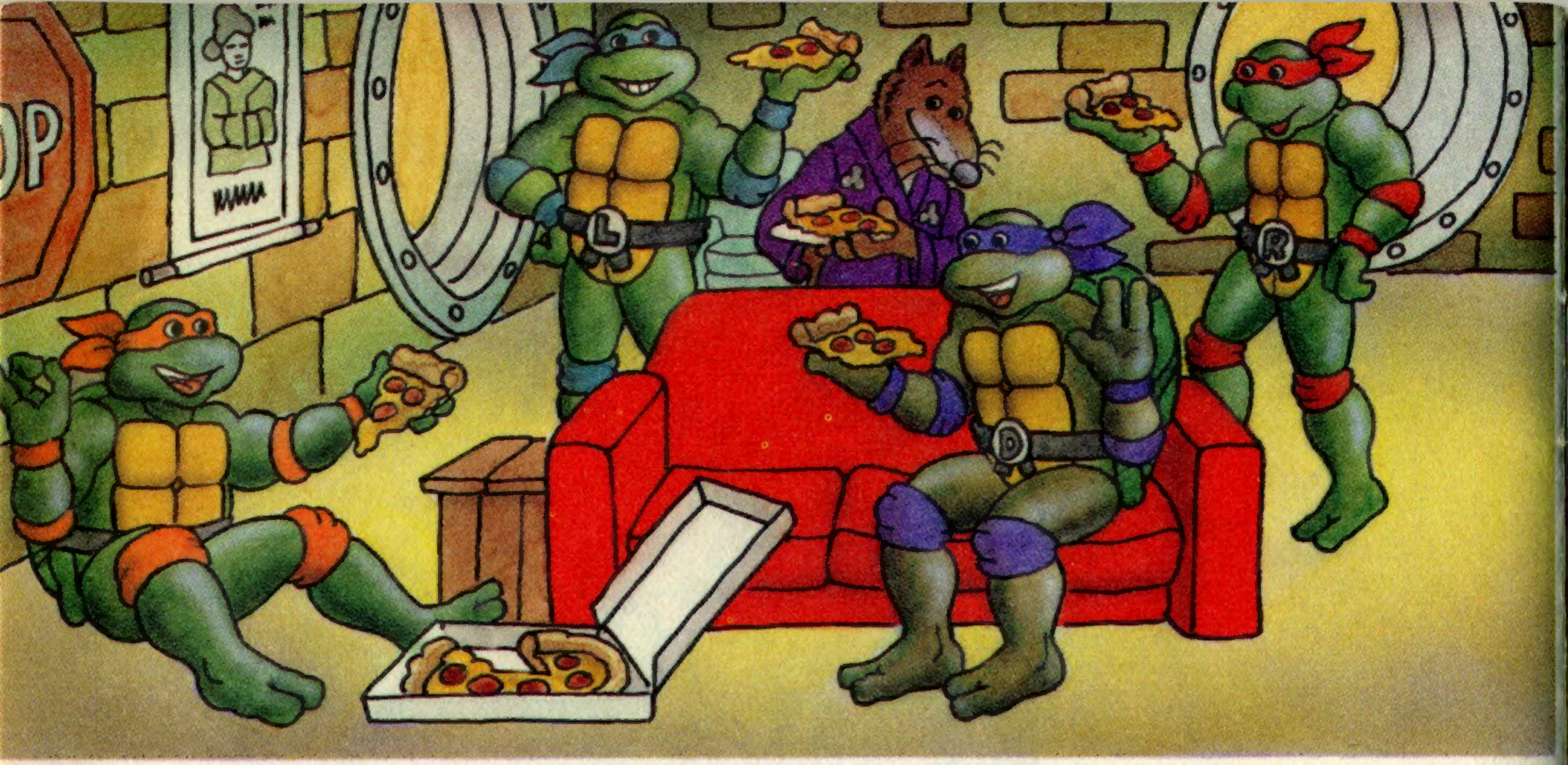
"Hey, that's us!" Donatello shouted, pointing to the screen "We're stars!"



The Turtles smiled at one another They felt proud to be on TV. "You must never stop practicing your ninja skills," Splinter reminded them

While his master spoke, Michaelangelo snuck away to make a phone call. "That's right," he whispered into the telephone. "I want a large thick-crust pizza with double cheese, pepperoni, mushrooms, and green peppers."

Then Michaelangelo quietly rejoined the others as they closed their eyes and began to meditate



But before long the pizza arrived, and the Turtles turned on their favorite party music.

"Our first battle–and now this," Michaelangelo said, chuckling as he bit into a slice. "This is excellent pizza!"

"*Turtle-y* excellent!" corrected Leonardo as everyone–even Splinter–burst out laughing.

Join those radical reptiles—the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles®—in these action-packed mini-storybooks based on *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—The Movie.*

The First Battle
The Final Lesson

ISBN 0-679-80668-7

Random House
$1.25 U.S.

© 1990 Mirage Studios. All rights reserved.